

the snake moved towards the upper canopy of the tree still holding the half swallowed bird in its mouth.

In one more instance, on 15 February, 1982 at 1400 hrs one of us (P.B.) while on a plant collection trip at Nandupallam area, noticed a Green whip snake (c. 1 metre) catching a young monitor lizard (c. 30 cm). The snake

was seen hanging from a *Manilkara hexandra* tree holding the young wriggling *Varanus* sp. tightly in its mouth. At about 1430 hrs the *Varanus* died and became motionless and the head and neck portion of the *Varanus* had been already swallowed by the snake. Immediately after the *Varanus* died, the snake holding the *Varanus* in its mouth moved into the dense canopy of a nearby tree.

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AVIFAUNA PROJECT,
KODIKKARAI-614 807,
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TAMIL NADU,
February 1, 1987.

V. NATARAJAN
P. BALASUBRAMANIAN

REFERENCE

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29. FIRST RECORDS OF *BUFO STOMATICUS* AND *BUFO FERGUSONII* (ANURA: BUFONIDAE) FROM ORISSA, WITH COMMENTS ON THEIR DISTRIBUTION

Studies on the amphibian fauna of Orissa go back to 1965, when Behura wrote a book in Oriya (Orissara Benga: Frogs and toads of Orissa) in which he recorded four species of amphibians from Orissa. Mohanty-Hejmadi (1976) and Mohanty-Hejmadi and Dutta (1976) reported 13 species of amphibians from the State. The present report of two species of *Bufo* from Orissa is a further addition to the amphibian faunal list of the State.

Bufo stomaticus Lutken

Specimens examined: INDIA: Ajmer: Rajputana: BM 1947.2.20.52-53; 80.11.10.132-

133 (syntypes of *Bufo andersonii*). Orissa: Sambalpur district: Barpali: KU 200354-85; Brajarajnagar: SKD 2941-51. Tamil Nadu: Tirunelveli district: Mela Neelitha Nallur: CM 60170-71. West Bengal: USNM 38193-94; Calcutta: BM 1909.11.10.2; FMNH 72398-99. Maharashtra: Bombay: BM 83.11.26.105-106. Sikkim: BM 1860.3.19.1362. SRI LANKA: Colombo: BM 1932-5.7.2-3; 1955.1.10.85.

Distribution:

India (Assam, West Bengal, Orissa, Bihar, Maharashtra, Karnataka, western and eastern Himalayas up to 6000 ft.). Outside India, the species extends from eastern Iran and southern

Afghanistan to Sind, Pakistan, Nepal, the southern corner of the Arabian Peninsula and Sri Lanka. The report of this species from Sri Lanka is based on only three specimens collected from near Colombo in 1932 by Kirtisinghe (1957). He suggested that the specimens may have been transported to Sri Lanka from India by means of sailing vessels.

Comments on the distribution record from Orissa:

Previously, there was no published record on the occurrence of *Bufo stomaticus* in Orissa. Dr. Dwight Platt, Department of Biology, Bethel College, North Newton, Kansas, U.S.A., collected 31 specimens of the species from Barpali, Sambalpur district, Orissa, during February, 1955-October, 1957. But he did not publish anything on his work in Orissa. During my studies at the University of Kansas, U.S.A., I had an opportunity of examining Dr. Platt's Orissa collections. There were 31 specimens of *B. stomaticus* along with other amphibians collected from the locality. Though Mohanty-Hejmadi (1976) published a report on the amphibian fauna of Orissa, there was not sufficient collection of specimens from Sambalpur district. Her report on the occurrence of *B. andersonii* (*B. stomaticus*) from Sambalpur is most probably based on a juvenile *B. stomaticus*. Recently (November, 1986), I collected 11 specimens of *B. stomaticus* from Brajarajnagar Paper Mill area, Sambalpur district. The animals were collected at night along with *B. melanostictus*.

***Bufo fergusonii* Boulenger**

Specimens examined: INDIA: Kerala: Travandrum: Travancore: BM 1947.2.21.17 (holotype); 92.10.5.8. Andhra Pradesh:

Hyderabad: MSU 6565-66. Orissa: Sambalpur district: Barpali: KU 200340-45. Tamil Nadu: Madras town: BM 1904.4.23.1; Kanyakumari district: CAS 104139. SRI LANKA: No further locality: CAS 85271. Western Province: 10 miles north of Puttalam: AMNH 74274-76. Marichchukkaddi: CM 67834. Trincomalee: FMNH 122054-78; 176341-42.

Distribution:

India (Kerala, Karnataka, Tamil Nadu, Andhra Pradesh and Orissa); Sri Lanka.

Comments on the distribution record from Orissa:

Previous reports (Boulenger 1882. Donahue and Daniel 1967. Daniel 1963) on the distribution record of *Bufo fergusonii* were confined to coastal areas of western, southern and eastern India up to Andhra Pradesh (Hyderabad). The present distribution record of the species in Orissa (Sambalpur district) is based on six specimens (Dr. Platt's collection) identified by me. Like *B. stomaticus*, all these specimens were collected during 1955-1957 and were marked on the jars as unidentified *Bufo* species. Since then, no additional specimens have been collected from Orissa.

Museum abbreviations:

- AMNH — American Museum of Natural History, New York, U.S.A.
- BM — British Museum (Natural History), London, U.K.
- CAS — California Academy of Sciences, San Francisco, U.S.A.
- CM — Carnegie Museum of Natural History, Pittsburgh, U.S.A.
- FMNH — Field Museum of Natural History, Chicago, U.S.A.

MISCELLANEOUS NOTES

- KU — University of Kansas, Museum of Natural History, U.S.A. Museum holdings and/or providing museum facilities, I thank the following: Charles W. Myers, Richard G. Zweifel and George Foley (AMNH); Barry T. Clarke (BM); Robert C. Drewes, Alan E. Leviton, Jens V. Vindum and Larry Wishmeyer (CAS); Clarence J. Censky (CM); Robert F. Inger and Alan Resetar (FMNH); William E. Duellman (KU); Peter Ocello (MSU) and George Zug (USNM).
- MSU — Michigan State University Museum, East Lansing, U.S.A.
- SKD — S. K. Dutta's collection.
- USNM — United States National Museum, Washington, D.C., U.S.A.

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30. BIO-ECOLOGICAL OBSERVATIONS ON *TOR CHILINOIDES*
(McCLELLAND)

Tor chilinoides occurs abundantly in the hill streams of Garhwal and is well adapted to the rapid flowing waters. A dark coloured Mahseer, which does not grow to a large size as other species of the genus (*Tor putitora*, *T. tor*, *T. mosal* and *T. khudree* etc), it is consumed as food in large quantities in the hills.

A bottom dwelling fish, it is found in deep pools beneath rocks and stones covered with algal slime preferring a stony substratum for its life activities. The depressed and slender body is suitable for the bottom living habit of the fish as also the reduction of the scales on the thorax and abdomen, and horizontally placed paired fins. The fish is very active in its movements and is a schooling fish.